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## Who said folk was friendly?

Retired scientist tells metroNEWS about his path to protest-song hero

LIVE 88·5FM

# Ottawa metro


metro EXCLUSIVE

## INTO THE TWILIGHT ZONE

In conversation with Stephanie Meyer

metroLIFE

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015

High 13°C/Low 7°C Mostly sunny

Mayor Jim Watson raised the Senators flag outside city hall's Heritage Building Wednesday to mark the beginning of the season. MICHAEL WOODS/METRO

# SENS SEASON STARTS

**Four questions facing the team as they face off tonight metroNEWS**

# Parking permit fees to double

WINTER

## $81 hike intended to take cars off the roads

**Emma Jackson**
Metro | Ottawa

On-street parking permit holders should prepare for a pocketbook punch this December as the city jacks its winter permit fees to $140 a month. That's more than double the current $59 fee.

The change aims to get more cars off the road during snowstorms. City operations manager Kevin Wylie told the transportation committee on Wednesday that a handful of residents only buy monthly permits in the winter, specifically to avoid overnight parking bans.

Since it costs far more to maintain roads in winter, those who buy between December and March bear the brunt of the costs.

The summer rate, meanwhile, will drop to $30. The discounted annual rate remains the same.

Changes also include free overnight parking at three downtown garages during parking bans.

The city has been struggling to clear streets after storms because of cars on the road. Bylaw officers issued more than 12,000 tickets last winter. Another 1,400 permit holders were exempt from parking bans.

Councillors Marianne Wilkinson and Jody Mitic asked staff to consider overnight parking options for residents outside the downtown core.

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Your essential daily news

Britain is the best place to die, study suggests. **World**

# Streets policy not green enough, councillor says

INFRASTRUCTURE

## Advocate says trees could add safety, comfort to roads

**Emma Jackson**
Metro | Ottawa

A new policy to consider alternative transit in roadwork projects doesn't go far enough to promote green neighbourhoods, according to Somerset Coun. Catherine McKenney.

The downtown councillor wants trees and landscaping to be formally considered as part of the city's complete streets implementation framework, approved at transportation committee on Wednesday.

It's already a pretty progressive policy: Instead of measuring road designs solely on how well they serve cars, traffic engineers will now also consider the needs of cyclists, pedestrians, transit users and truck drivers.

This could look different depending on the location. A downtown arterial could warrant a segregated bike lane, but a quiet suburban street might not even qualify for sidewalks. A rural highway might only need a paved shoulder to be considered complete.

But McKenney argued no road is complete without some greenery, and the new policy should reflect that.

Right now the framework says urban design guidelines like landscaping and lighting are outside its scope, but that existing city guidelines should be consulted.

Despite reassurances from transportation project manager Colin Simpson that this will happen, McKenney insisted a change is needed.

> **We're looking for every opportunity to make streets safer and accommodating all the modes.**
> Colin Simpson

"I want it to be mandatory that when we are looking at the street, we are considering how we can green that street," she said.

"If it's zero, then at least I'll be able to know why we couldn't do anything."

McKenney wasn't alone in her concerns.

Angela Keller-Herzog from the Glebe Community Association argued that trees could add a level of safety and comfort just as much as segregated bike lanes.

They offer shade in the hot summer months, she said, while improving local air quality, reducing storm water runoff and providing habitat.

McKenney said she plans to meet with staff for a better understanding of the issue.

She'll bring a motion to council if she's not satisfied.

The complete streets framework will apply to all transportation and roadwork projects, not just major reconstructions like the one on Main Street. Even a simple line-painting job could warrant small, low-cost changes that make a big difference to cyclists and other users, Simpson said.

"High-visible paint can do a lot," he said. "We're looking for every opportunity to make streets safer and accommodating all the modes."

**The complete street project on Churchill Ave in Westboro has very little greenery, although trees were planted where staff could find space.** EMMA JACKSON/METRO

### Q&A

**What's a complete street, anyway?**

**Answer:** A complete street, according to the city's definition, offers "safety, comfort and mobility for all users of the street regardless of their age, ability, or mode of transportation." In other words, the road is not just for cars. Traffic planners will now take the needs of cyclists, pedestrians, transit and trucks into account alongside cars. This doesn't mean you'll see segregated bike lines on every side street; the policy recognizes needs are different across the city.

**Q:** How can I get a complete street near me?

**A:** The policy will apply to any and all roadwork projects, even to something as small as a paint job. Every time city staff starts a transportation project staff will look for ways to make the street more complete. That could be as simple as painting new bike lanes or a shoulder, or considering sidewalk repair to make a smoother ride for wheelchair and stroller users.

**Q:** Sounds expensive. What's this all going to cost?

**A:** While waiting for a total road reconstruction like the one on Main Street is the most efficient way to do it, Simpson said smaller projects can also absorb the costs of extra road paint, a sidewalk or a bike lane barrier. And since active modes of transportation cost less to build and maintain, Simpson said project costs would actually go down long-term.

METRO

# Wrongs make it Wright

BACKSTAGE PASS

## Band releasing 15th album, Hearts and Lonely Hunters

Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

The easiest part of making Luther Wright's new record was not recording it at all.

For the first time in his 15-album career, the roots/alt-country frontman left the knobs alone and let someone else produce the album. And not just some Johnny Hammersticks — he enlisted the fabled Hugh Christopher Brown to take the helm in his small post office turned studio on Wolfe Island.

The result is a bit of a departure for a band that has been painted with the bluegrass, roots brush their entire career. The new Luther Wright and the Wrongs album is punchy, edgy and takes the band back to the good old days, when rock 'n' roll was the devil's music.

"(Hugh Christopher Brown) just took care of everything," says Wright, just days ahead of his exclusive pre-release show at the Black Sheep Inn Friday night in Wakefield, Que.

"It's a lot to think about when you are producing, overseeing and performing things. I do that fairly often where I will present a show and play it and that is tough, because on one hand you are thinking about the songs and music stuff and in the other part of your brain you are thinking about accommodations for so-and-so, and did they get the gluten-free buns? Being able to focus just on the music was nice."

It's been a long time coming for Luther Wright and the Wrongs; seven years, to be exact, since their last 2008 studio record, Man of Your Dreams. But there never was a sense of urgency on the new Hearts and Lonely Hunters album, as Wright wanted it to be done the right way, with all the original founding Wrongs and stellar collaborations with The Holmes Brothers and the piercing vocals of Sarah Harmer.

Luther Wright and the Wrongs play the Black Sheep Inn Saturday, a pre-release party for their new venture. DAVID IRVINE/FOR METRO

"There was no hurry, so I was really pleased with how it all turned out," adds Wright.

"Seven years, when you are 50, seems like seven minutes compared to seven years in your 20s; that's like 70 years."

The record isn't ready to be released until January of next year, but Wright isn't letting production and distribution cut into anyone's listening time. He's taking the tunes live this weekend at the Black Sheep Inn for an exclusive, pre-release party in his now hometown of Wakefield. It's partly to give back to all the donors who contributed to the crowd-sourcing campaign, and to have one hell of a hometown hootenanny.

"The village supports the music and the arts so much and I feel that support, so it's nice to give back with an exclusive, pre-release show at the Black Sheep where Luther Wright and the Wrongs cut our teeth," he says.

"This is sort of like that local celebration of the completion of the album and a lot of people from Wakefield contributed to the crowd-sourcing campaign."

Saturday's show will boast founding members Cam Giroux, Dan Curtis and Shawn Kelly, along with Wright and there will be a "very special guest" showing up on stage with them when they take over the Sheep.

I wonder who that could be?

The show starts at 8:30 p.m.

> **It's a lot to think about when you are producing, overseeing and performing things... Being able to focus just on the music was nice.**
> Luther Wright

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EMISSIONS SCANDAL

# Province demands answers from VW

Ontario's environment ministry is investigating Volkswagen Canada and Audi Canada for selling cars with software designed to bypass the vehicle's emissions controls.

The province is asking the company to detail whatever actions it plans to take to fix the cars sold in Ontario that don't meet emissions standards.

The ministry says both Volkswagen and Audi Canada, owned by Volkswagen, must find an Ontario-specific solution to the software issue, and will be expected to take action to make sure impacted cars meet the province's rules on emissions levels.

Volkswagen must also minimize any inconvenience and costs to people who bought the cars in Ontario as it fixes the problem.

**35K**

**The estimated number of Volkswagens and Audis in Ontario with the software that alters emissions data.**

The government estimates there are 35,000 of the Volkswagen and Audi models in Ontario with the software that turns off the emissions control systems except when the vehicle is being tested.

The result is the cars that were sold as "clean diesel" vehicles actually exceed standards for nitrogen oxide emissions by up to 40 times.

Volkswagen admitted in September that up to 11 million vehicles worldwide had the software that enabled cars to send false readings during emissions tests.

Volkswagen Canada suspended sales of Jetta, Passat and Golf models dating back to 2009 last month, the same time Audi Canada stopped selling its diesel-equipped A3.

The U.S. government ordered the company to recall half a million cars in the U.S. after the Environmental Protection Agency determined VW used software to cheat on emissions testing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## ACROSS FROM COSTCO

# Strange magic coming

CENTREPOINTE THEATRE

## Reality show semifinalist magician among acts

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

It's easy for theatres to promise something magical, but this time Centrepointe Theatre isn't talking about that fuzzy feeling you get from a Christmas musical.

In November, the Nepean arts hub is bringing the real deal to Ottawa: Britain's Got Talent finalist and magician Darcy Oake.

There's no gloves and cape for this illusionist. The Winnipeg-born Oake is more a leather-jacket-and-sneakers kind of guy.

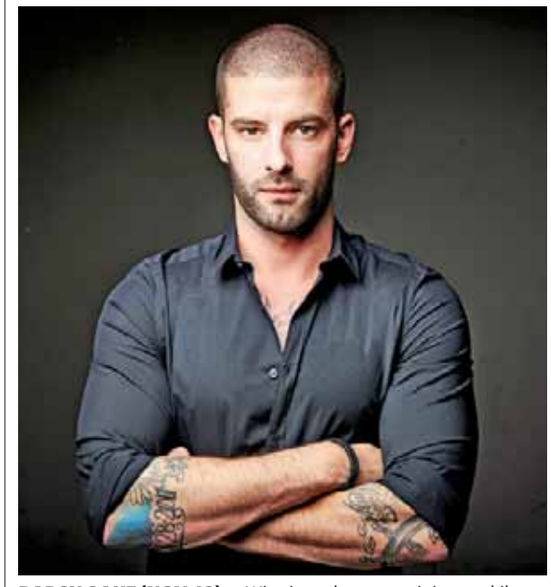
His unbelievable tricks and escape feats, combined with charm and good looks, took him all the way to the top of the English reality show in 2014.

"I don't present myself as some grandiose mystifier," he said. "What I try to present is a normal guy who can do extraordinary things."

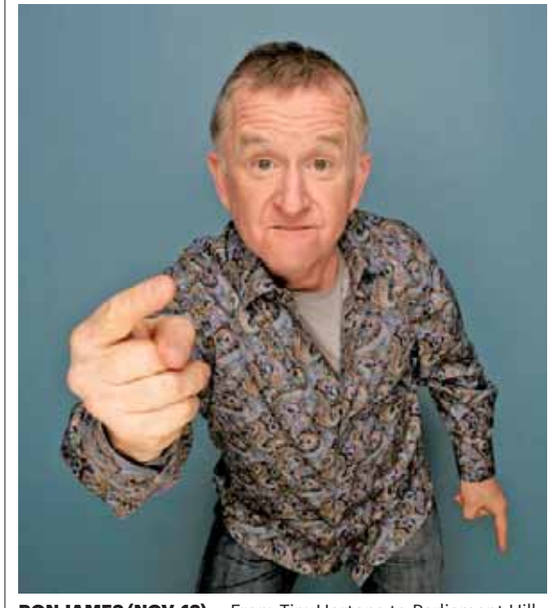
Those extraordinary things include levitating objects, disappearing and reappearing and daring escapes.

Other shows in November include CBC comedian Rob James and ArcAttack — a "part science, part rock" band that also made their name on reality TV. The band was a finalist on America's Got Talent for an usual musical show played on giant Tesla coils (try to imagine lightning timed to music).

**ARCATTACK (NOV. 6) —** ArcAttack is part science show, part rock band. The group performs lightning concerts timed to music with giant Tesla coils.



**DARCY OAKE (NOV. 10) —** Winnipeg-born magician and illusionist Oake preforms magic with style and leaves behind cheesy costumes and common tricks.



**RON JAMES (NOV. 12) —** From Tim Hortons to Parliament Hill, Ron James is Canada's comedian and he'll have a lot of new material coming to Ottawa post-election.

PHOTOS COURTESY CENTREPOINTE THEATRE

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# Councillor questions cost of OPS data

ROAD SAFETY

## Police charge thousands for collision-data statistics

**Steve Rennie and Emma Jackson**
Metro | Ottawa

A city councillor is scratching his head over the Ottawa Police Service's price to release data on collisions between cyclists and motor vehicles.

Tobi Nussbaum, who represents the Rideau-Rockcliffe ward, says he's not sold on the police's rationale for charging thousands of dollars for a year-and-a-half of cycling collision data.

"My general instinct is the more we can provide residents with information, with open data, with a sense of what's happening for our city, the better for everybody," he said.

"We can make better policy choices if we have a sense of where the problem spots are."

In July, Metro filed a request under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for records showing the location, time and date of collisions between cyclists and motor vehicles.

Metro received a letter from Ottawa police this week with a hefty fee estimate.

The police service wants $6,300 for the records — with a deposit of $3,150 by Oct. 30 before they'll even go ahead with the request.

That's based on an estimate of 105 hours of "computer programing" at a cost of $60 an hour.

Nussbaum says he's not convinced the data shouldn't be provided without charge, since the police provide crime data for free on an online mapping tool.

"I understand there's mapping of individual crime taking place," he said, "and if that's the case and if there is a public service around the provision of that, I guess I'm not convinced there's a strong argument not to provide that information on collision data."

**$6,300**

**Ottawa Police Service wants $6,300 to complete a Freedom of Information request for data focused on collisions between cyclists and motorists. The estimate is based on 105 hours of computer programming at $60/hr.**

ELECTION 2015

## Dewar touts NDP urban tree strategy

**Michael Woods**
Metro | Ottawa

The federal government needs to be more involved in planting and protecting urban trees, Ottawa Centre NDP candidate Paul Dewar said Wednesday.

Speaking on Wellington Street at the site of a recently removed diseased elm tree, Dewar touted the NDP's proposed urban tree strategy, which would mandate the federal government to work with cities to increase coverage. He said he would work to ensure Ottawa Centre receives targeted attention.

**Ottawa Centre NDP candidate Paul Dewar**
MICHAEL WOODS/METRO

"Other G7 countries have prioritized the expansion and protection of urban tree coverage," Dewar said. "Yet Canada has no strategy to protect and maintain urban forests in the face of accelerating development and spreading biological threats."

Chief among those threats is the invasive emerald ash borer. More than 15,000 dead or dying trees infected with the bug have been removed in Ottawa since 2009.

Dewar said the federal government should learn from that experience and look at how it can be a more active player to deal with such situations.

"If we had ... more engagement from the federal government, we probably would have been able to help mitigate a little bit better," he said.

Dewar made the announcement along with former longtime city councillor Diane Holmes and Tree Ottawa organizer Velta Tomsons.

"It's absolutely essential that there be a federal program that works with cities to take better care of our urban forests," Holmes said.

Dewar is hoping to win a fourth mandate in Ottawa Centre on Oct. 19. He is facing a challenge from Liberal candidate Catherine McKenna. The Conservative candidate is Damian Konstantinakos.

## IN BRIEF

**Bungling pharmacy robber caught on security camera**

It's a pharmacy robbery that sounds like it came straight out of a bad sitcom.

Ottawa police say a man walked in to a pharmacy near Baseline Road and Pinecrest Road at around 2:50 p.m. on Sept. 25. He made a beeline for the dispensing area, where he grabbed the pharmacist and demanded narcotics. The pharmacist gave him the drugs, which he stuffed into a black plastic bag he'd brought with him.

Then things got interesting. The man found himself locked in the pharmacy. He tried to crawl out through the ceiling, only to fall to the floor. So he smashed a window and ran out — but not before he got himself caught on a security camera.

He was last seen running down Pinecrest and hopping into a beige pickup truck.

STEVE RENNIE/METRO

# Media restriction was a mistake: Wynne

POLITICS

## Premier says it was at China's Communist Party's request

Premier Kathleen Wynne scrambled Wednesday to explain why reporters were shut out of all the events she had scheduled with a Chinese Communist Party official.

When first asked Tuesday night why she agreed to exclude the media from her meetings and events with Luo Zhijun — party secretary of Jiangsu province — she said it was because the Communist Party had asked.

However, by Wednesday morning Wynne said it was all a mistake and she had thought the media would be allowed in for a quick photo op of her meeting with Luo, and her schedule was amended late Tuesday night to add a media availability.

"I had assumed that, as with visits from dignitaries from all over the world, that the media would have an opportunity to come in at the beginning," she said. "So it was a mistake that that wasn't communicated to you." But less than 24 hours earlier, Wynne fumbled as she tried to explain why the media were originally excluded from all her events with Luo.

> **"I don't understand why the media couldn't be invited.**
> Progressive Conservative MPP Steve Clark

"These are people from Jiangsu province who are coming to meet with us and they have a series of requests that they've put in," Wynne said Tuesday evening.

The opposition parties said the premier should never have agreed to ban the media from all of her events with the Chinese delegation.

"I was a little suspicious, and I don't understand why the media couldn't be invited," said Progressive Conservative MPP Steve Clark.

Wynne is all talk when it comes to transparency, and it's unusual to shut out the media from all events with a foreign visitor, said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

"When visiting delegations come, locking up these meetings and not allowing anybody in is not the way we do things in Ontario," said Horwath.

Cameras and reporters were allowed in for a few minutes Wednesday to take pictures of Wynne and Luo but were not allowed to ask any questions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A SCARY GOOD TIME!
Saturday night October 31, it's Haute Halloween at the Ottawa Wine & Food Festival! Come in costume and reveal your inner goblin as you stroll down the Haute Halloween Runway for your chance to win great prizes–including an all-inclusive Trip for Two to the Barbados Food, Wine & Rum Festival November 19-22! Then sample and vote on a Halloween treat at Cocktail Culture as you groove to the ghoulish tunes of our DJ! Get your ghoul on and get to the Festival for a scary good time.
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**The sign on Mackenzie King bridge Wednesday with the slogan 'Student issues are election issues.'** HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

ELECTION 2015

# Students' banner a political warning

**Haley Ritchie**
Metro | Ottawa

Students from Ottawa took to the streets Wednesday, warning politicians that they ignore young people at their peril.

A small white and black banner was unfurled at 7 a.m. above traffic on the Mackenzie King bridge. The banner read, "Student issues are election issues," with a French translation and reference to the Canadian Federation of Students' student vote hashtag, "ItsNoSecret."

"It was a public demonstration to send a message to politicians and the public that students are voting and our issues are election issues," said Michael Bückert, president of the Graduate Student Association at Carleton University.

"It's also a way to raise awareness for students, since we would like a higher voter turnout," he said.

The project was a joint-action by students from the University of Ottawa, Carleton and University Saint-Paul. The Canadian Federation of Students planned similar "days of action" across the country.

Participants were also on campus Wednesday, doing outreach and encouraging students to take place in special advance polls on their campuses.

## IN BRIEF

**Nicaraguan dog bound for Ottawa for snout surgery**

An Ottawa veterinarian is preparing to fly in a dog from Nicaragua to perform snout-saving surgery.

Graham Thatcher says a stranger posted a video of Tyson's deep gash on Instagram and asked for help.

He says Tyson, a beagle mix, was hurt accidently when his owner was clearing brush in the jungle with a machete about a year ago.

Thatcher says the dog's mouth and nasal cavity are visible through the severe gash and he needs surgery to alleviate his suffering.

After reversing a decision to not allow the injured animal on board, United Airlines is paying for a flight for Thatcher and the dog to get to Houston, and Air Canada will fly the dog to Ottawa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Ottawa resident Deborah Canham was first diagnosed with ovarian cancer almost six years ago.** CONTRIBUTED

# New ovarian cancer therapy approved

HEALTH

## Doctor: 'Great advancement' first in Canada in 15 years

**Lucy Scholey**
Metro | Ottawa

Canadian women battling recurring ovarian cancer diagnosis now have another treatment option.

Health Canada approved Avastin, a targeted therapy that blocks the blood vessels cancer cells need to grow and metastasize. In Canada, it's the first new drug for ovarian cancer in 15 years.

Dr. Michael Fung-Kee-Fung, division head of surgical oncology at the Ottawa Hospital, calls it a "great advancement."

"Ovarian cancer, historically, has always lagged a little bit behind in terms of getting research funding compared to some of the other larger ... more prominent cancer types," he said. "Avastin is an example of a drug which has actually made its way through the investigation phases to actually come to clinical practice."

The drug is taken intravenously and in parallel with chemo treatments. It's "extremely well tolerated," said Dr. Fung-Kee-Fung, with side effects like high blood pressure.

Up until this point, only chemotherapy and surgery were available for women diagnosed with the disease that bears symptoms as subtle as bloating and gastric upset.

This year, about 2,800 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and about 1,750 will die from the highly aggressive disease.

Deborah Canham is one of 15 out of 100 women still battling ovarian cancer almost six years after her diagnosis. The Ottawa resident went to the doctor after noticing a hard lump on her right side. An ultrasound revealed the hard news: She needed an emergency hysterectomy at the young age of 49.

At the time, she learned the disease had a good chance of recurring. She recently started her fifth round of chemotherapy.

Canham said she's trying not to let it interfere with her job teaching students who are deaf and hard of hearing. She's set to start Avastin with the hope it will give her the energy to keep doing all the activities she loves.

> **I'm hanging in there for the cure.**
> Deborah Canham, who is battling ovarian cancer

## IN BRIEF

**Physicians give $1M to mental health campaign**

A group of physicians at The Royal will donate $1 million to a campaign for mental health.

The group, which calls itself the Associated in Psychiatry, made the announcement Wednesday morning at The Royal's annual leaders for mental health breakfast.

The donation brings The Royal to within $1 million of reaching its fundraising goal of $25 million for its Campaign for Mental Health.

METRO

AUSTRALIAN RULING

## 'Human genes are not patentable': CHEO

**Steve Rennie**
Metro | Ottawa

The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario says it hopes Canada will follow an Australian court's ruling on gene patents.

On Wednesday, the Australian High Court ruled human genes cannot be patented. CHEO says the ruling sets a significant international trend, and says it is optimistic about its own legal challenge to gene patents in Canada, launched last November.

"Two common law countries, the United States and Australia, have now agreed that human genes are not patentable," CHEO's president and CEO Alex Munter said in a release. "We hope Canada is next because it will help us realize the full potential of genomic medicine."

The Australian High Court ruled that the BRCA 1 gene related to breast and ovarian cancer cannot be patented, and recognized that human genes are not an invention.

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# New concussion treatment in town

West Carleton Secondary School student Taylor MacLeod is still feeling the effects of a concussion she sustained five years ago. CONTRIBUTED

HEALTH

## Method was used on hockey player Sidney Crosby

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

An Ottawa chiropractor is now treating concussed patients with the groundbreaking treatment and diagnosis used on Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby.

Dr. Joseph Lawrence is practising the "chiropractic neurology" method he studied at the Carrick Institute of Post Graduate Studies. Named after Dr. Ted Carrick, who successfully treated Crosby, the treatment involves the American doctor's unconventional mix of neurophysiology, psychology, neurology and nutrition.

While the traditional cure for a concussion is rest, this method involves new diagnostic equipment to track eye movements and balance. From there, the doctor designs a treatment depending on the patient's needs.

"The way we treat them is as unique as that individual's fingerprint," said Dr. Lawrence.

It's the kind of treatment 15-year-old Taylor MacLeod wished for.

Almost five years ago, she slipped on ice and landed on her head.

The hours that followed were a mixed bag of concussed memories. She doesn't remember the ambulance arriving later that evening or the CT scan of her brain in the hospital.

She was diagnosed with a small hematoma, which she understood as a slight non-threatening brain bleed.

Whether it's the fluorescent lights at school or her inability to play contact sports, MacLeod still feels the effects of her concussion almost five years later.

"Last year, I was supposed to do a 5K run for gym and I couldn't do it," said the West Carleton Secondary School student.

She said that while she plays soccer, she can't head butt the ball or run long distances.

"I get really, really lightheaded. I get dizzy, nauseous and I feel like I'm going to pass out."

Crosby's case may have had some parents thinking twice about whether to put their kids in hockey.

But Dean Brown, Ottawa Senators sportscaster with TSN 1200, said parents should not fear contact sports, but rather be cognizant of risks.

"That means educating yourself about concussions or any other kinds of injuries that are common to body contact sports," he said.

From 2009 to 2010, there were 94,000 reported cases of concussions or other brain injuries in the country, according to Statistics Canada.

> **I get really, really light-headed. I get dizzy, nauseous and I feel like I'm going to pass out.**
> Taylor MacLeod

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# Hairy times with the captain

What is it about Swedish captains of the Ottawa Senators being known for their hair? Fans lived through former captain Daniel Alfredsson's many follicle fiascoes during his 17-year run with the team. Now his "hair" apparent, Erik Karlsson, has lopped off his luscious locks. Metro takes a look back as Karlsson's evolving hairstyles. RIP #TheFlow

**Senators captain Erik Karlsson, sans flow, during practice Wednesday.** OTTAWA SENATORS/TWITTER

**Karlsson talks to media at first day of training camp in September.** THE CANADIAN PRESS/ADRIAN WYLD

**The rookie, chosen at the NHL draft in Ottawa June 20, 2008.** THE CANADIAN PRESS/FRED CHARTRAND

# Questions abound as Sens take to ice

NHL 2015-16

## Was last year's mad run to the playoffs just a mirage?

**Michael Woods**
Metro | Ottawa

After a slow start last season, the Ottawa Senators roared to life under new head coach Dave Cameron and made a historic run to the playoffs before losing in the first round. They kick off the regular season Thursday night in Buffalo against the Sabres. Here are four questions facing the team as they start the 2015-16 season.

### Was Andrew Hammond a flash in the pan?

The Hamburglar posted a 20-1-2 record, .941 save percentage and 1.76 goals-against average last season, capturing Sens fans' hearts and propelling the team to the playoffs. He was rewarded with a three-year contract and the backup goaltending job. No one expects him to maintain that pace, but can he step in as a regular NHL goalie if Craig Anderson gets hurt, or was he a one-hit wonder? He's starting the year on the shelf with a strained groin.

### Is this the year Jared Cowen finally gets his game back?

The 2009 first-rounder has had injury and consistency problems. He was a healthy scratch for last year's miracle run, but management still seems to have faith; they traded Eric Gryba to make room for him on the third pairing. This may be the year we find out once and for all whether Cowen can be a mainstay on the Senators' blue line.

### Will Bobby Ryan score more goals?

The four-time 30-goal scorer carried the team offensively at times early last season, but scored only one goal in his final 20 games. It wasn't a huge problem because the team was winning, but he's expected to score more. Look for his goal-scoring numbers to increase.

### What about the kids?

Mike Hoffman led the team with 27 goals last year, but only got a one-year contract and will have to prove himself all over again. Curtis Lazar must avoid a sophomore slump. Mika Zibanejad made huge progress last season with 46 points, but is expected to produce even more. And the team hopes rookie-of-the-year finalist Mark Stone picks up where he left off, when he was one of the NHL's top scorers in the second half of the season.

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Ottawa

# Harperman singer talks suspension,

**Tony Turner, the former Environment Canada scientist whose anti-Stephen Harper song got him suspended from his job, reacts as Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, left, thanks him for performing it during a campaign rally in Vancouver, last Saturday.** DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tony Turner, who retired from Environment Canada last week, performed his anti-Stephen Harper folk song at rallies over the weekend. **MICHAEL WOODS** METRO

It has been a whirlwind few weeks for Tony Turner. The federal scientist was suspended from his Environment Canada job eight weeks ago and investigated for writing the Harperman protest song. The song took off, garnering more than 680,000 YouTube views and sparking nationwide singalongs last month. Last week, Turner retired, making him free to speak publicly. This interview has been edited and condensed for length and clarity.

**What do you make of the past couple of months? Did you expect the song to become as big as it was?**

I didn't expect the song to go viral the way it had. I wrote that song way back in March, I played it for the first time at a May Day rally and I thought that was going to be the end of it. I think there were other people who saw a political usefulness that could be made of the song, so we did the video and then we put it on YouTube. I guess my suspension created the big news story that made it go viral.

**Why did you decide to write it?**

Not unlike a lot of Canadians, I was just unhappy with the prime minister and our leadership in this country. The song-writing contest was to write either a protest song or a song of hope, and I thought well, this is an election year so I'm going to write a protest song. I found the inspiration for it from a social justice newsletter with a dozen things the Harper government has done to undermine democracy, and I added to it.

**It was for a song-writing contest? How did you do?**

Well, I won. The prize was to play it at this May Day rally, and I'm playing with all these labour people and I'm standing on stage thinking 'Wow, all of a sudden I'm a labour activist.' I just got thrown on stage to sing the song, and I didn't really realize the potential of it and how it would resonate with people.

**Did you think you would face professional consequences for writing it?**

I wrote it and I performed it, but other people promoted it, created the website and organized events like the national sing-along day on Sept. 17. The allegations of the government suggested that I kind of masterminded the whole thing, and that's just totally inaccurate.

Anything I wrote or said has nothing to do with the nature of my job. Environment Canada's values and ethics code says that you have to maintain your impartiality and your objectivity in your duties. I've done that. Has my ability to do my job in an impartial and objective manner been compromised? I would say no, and my union agrees with me.

# retirement and accidental activism

**How did you find out you'd been suspended from work?**

I came back from holiday and there was a phone call from Environment Canada saying they had a document they wanted to send to me. I phoned them and said I'll just pick it up when I go to work tomorrow. And they said no, no, we're going to courier it to you. The allegations were outlined and they said I was suspended with pay.

The officials said they would conduct the inquiry in a complete and expeditious manner, but after eight weeks of being on suspension and knowing that they had all the information that they needed, I could tell they were just sidelining me, keeping me away. I only had about 15 workdays left, so I decided, well, they're just going to keep me on the sidelines until after the election or until I retire.

**Why do you think they suspended you?**

What I did, writing and performing the song, was totally separate from my office duties, and they could clearly see that very early on, that there was no relationship. Yes, it was political, but it was nothing I did in the workplace. But they chose to suspend me. My union said that that was an unusual step. I don't know for sure, but I have to assume that it was some political forces at play.

Yes, it was an edgy song. But we have freedom of expression in this country, and even public servants have that. Any kind of code should not trump freedom of expression for 240,000 public servants. It's just wrong.

**Turner, seen at last weekend's Green Party rally in Vancouver, retired from his job this week rather than waiting out an investigation into his behaviour.** DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **Yes, it was an edgy song. But we have freedom of expression in this country, and even public servants have that.**
> Tony Turner

**What was it like on Sept. 17 when there were rallies across the country and you couldn't attend?**

I was quite moved by the whole experience, because I knew that a lot of those people that were gathered, as much as they were singing an anti-Harper song, they were also singing in support of me. That was very touching.

**You performed at two Green Party rallies last weekend. Do you have plans to perform the song between now and Election Day?**

If it helps defeat the Conservatives, I will sing that song anywhere that people can take me to. To be honest, I really wasn't that political, even when I wrote the song it was more of an intellectual exercise. But I got kind of emotionally involved with the whole songwriting exercise, because that's what music does. That's what resonates with people. It just gives an additional dimension to the anger that they feel, even though we sang it in a joyful way.

**Do you have any regrets?**

My main regret is that I wasn't able to complete a project that I had been working on for the last 19-20 months. It was a preretirement project that I had initiated and I'd wanted to see completed by the time I left. I got word that the project was going to have successful results. But I wasn't going to be there at the finish line. That's what hurts the most.

I think the whole suspension thing was actually punishing me before they'd made their decision, now that I look back at it. At the time I was acting in good faith. But I don't think they had any intention of providing a decision.

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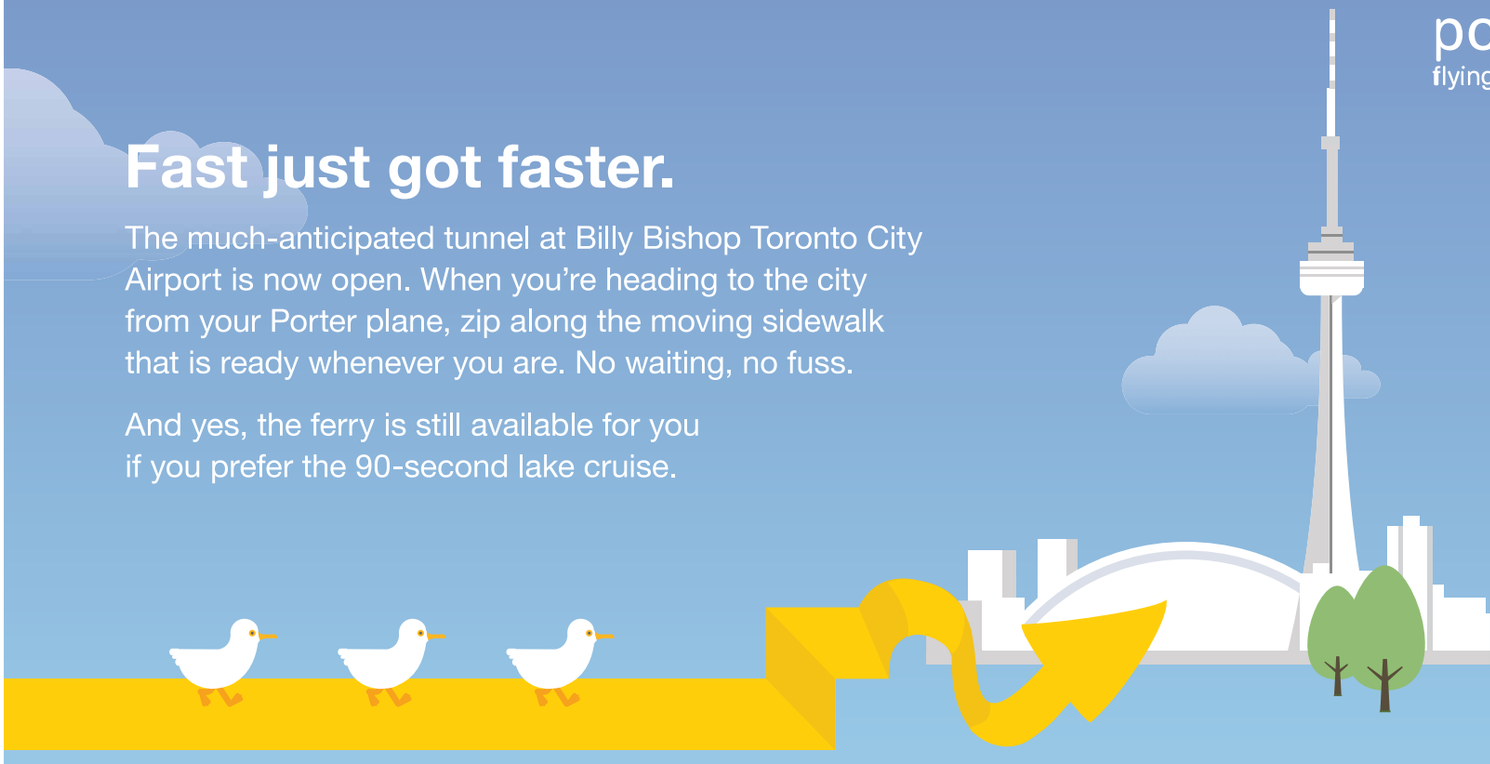

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# READY TO ENGAGE

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**VOTER PROFILE**

**Name:** Kevin Settee **Age:** 25 **Riding:** Winnipeg Centre
**His issues:** Tuition reform, climate change, child care, oilsands expansion and indigenous rights

# Petty politics won't resolve problems

**ROSEMARY WESTWOOD**
in Winnipeg

There are fewer than two weeks left in this election, and Kevin Settee is feeling overloaded.

He also sounds disgusted.

In the 25-year-old's riding, Winnipeg Centre, candidates have been battering each other over who has real street cred — i.e. condemning each other for not living in the riding. NDP incumbent Pat Martin has had to apologize for profane outbursts aimed at competitors (e.g., "political slut"; "son of a bitch").

"It's disrespectful to the constituents," Settee says of the petty politics. Born and raised in the city's west end and a new father to a nine-month-old boy, Settee calls the race "the laughing stock of Canada."

"That's overshadowed a lot of the issues that we experience here in Winnipeg Centre. Real issues aren't being talked about or addressed."

As an urban geography student at the University of Winnipeg, top of mind for Settee is student tuition, debt and job prospects. He speaks of employment as a matter of dignity.

"In Canada, our students have a combined $16-billion debt for student loans. That's not even including student lines of credit and credit cards. When students graduate they're going into a precarious job market that doesn't pay good, and it's very difficult for them to start a family or buy a home and start to contribute to the economy."

As a new father, he's also concerned about access to quality child care.

"In the inner city of Winnipeg, there's high rates of poverty and families living in poverty. One of the ways to address that is child care." Single parents or those struggling can go back to school or get training to find jobs if they have child care, he says.

Settee is also concerned about pipeline development, the expansion of the oilsands and the impact of both on climate change.

"I'd like to hear Canada talk about a transition plan. What's the transition going to look like from an economy dependent on fossil fuels and the development of tar sands and moving into more renewable, clean energy sources, such as geothermal, hydro, wind, solar," he says. "In terms of me and my son, and my grandchildren, I think we need to start looking at ways to address climate change and protecting water for the next seven generations."

He's got more research to do before deciding how to vote, but he says he's skeptical of the NDP's plan to build refineries on Canada's coasts, and also criticized the Liberals for supporting Bill C-51.

He'd like to see an MP with a strategy to help increase jobs and economic prospects on First Nation reserves, and a strategy to unify support for indigenous Canadians moving to bigger cities. An MP that will improve the integration of immigrants into Winnipeg, too.

"I want to vote for somebody who understands the community, is going to best represent Winnipeg Centre in Parliament, who's going to stand up for services and advocacy that Winnipeg Centre residents need," he says, adding that he'd also like "a government that respects indigenous pluralism and self-determination, on and off reserves."

Settee's not sure if any party can or will change the way indigenous Canadians are treated. "I don't think it's given. I think you need to advocate for yourself and your community. We have to work hard for our rights."

Rosemary Westwood is travelling across the country talking to young voters. She'll be in Toronto tomorrow.

# Environmental issues 'derailed'

## As campaign riles up, leaders shift focus from climate change

**Matt Kieltyka**
Metro | Vancouver

**As the federal leaders have squared off, The David Suzuki Foundation has praised the NDP's plan for a cap-and-trade system as "one of the most powerful government incentives" available to address climate change.** THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Recent political bickering has sidelined an otherwise strong showing for environmental issues in this federal election, according to the David Suzuki Foundation.

From huge commitments for transit infrastructure spending by all parties, the NDP's proposed cap-and-trade system, the Liberals' plan to phase out fossil fuel subsidies and the Greens calling out the other parties for their continuing support — explicit or otherwise — for various pipeline projects, foundation spokesman Alvin Singh is satisfied the environment has worked its way into the public's mind.

"(The leaders) have been talking about how the environment isn't a distinct issue," said Singh, who sees environment, health care and the economy as entwined issues that can't be treated separately. "Across the board, parties are starting to invest in transit infrastructure and a number of parties are talking about transitioning to a fossil-free future."

The focus on the big picture issues, and the recognition that the environment plays a crucial role in all of them, is progress in itself, according to Singh.

However, talk of the economy, health care and the environment — while featured prominently in the early debates — seems to have been pushed aside in favour of the furor over niqabs, national security and human rights of late.

As leaders have gotten riled up and the intensity of the campaign has ratcheted up, Singh admits talk of the environment has been "derailed" to some degree, at the expense of what matters most to voters.

According to a recent poll conducted by the Environics Institute and the David Suzuki Foundation, 61 per cent of Canadians believe government should co-operate with other nations to reduce carbon emissions, even if it results on some job losses and higher prices for some goods and the majority (58 per cent) are in favour of a carbon tax similar to British Columbia's.

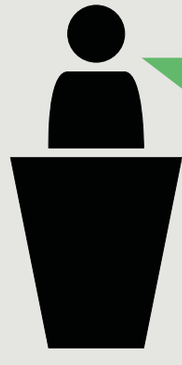
When it comes to each party's platform, the David Suzuki Foundation is still crunching the data and preparing their environment report card after the Oct. 19 election.

> **(The leaders) have been talking about how the environment isn't a distinct issue.**
> Alvin Singh

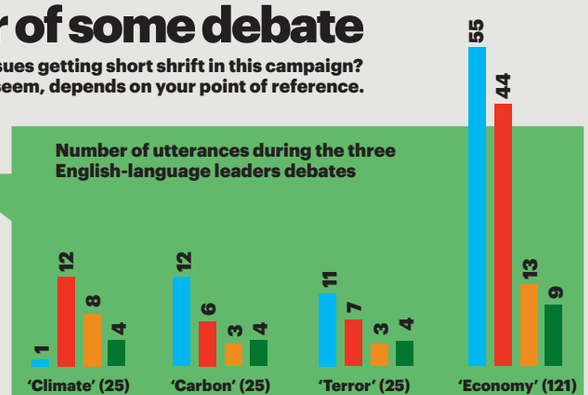
**BY THE NUMBERS**

## A matter of some debate

**Are environmental issues getting short shrift in this campaign? The answer, it would seem, depends on your point of reference.**



**Number of utterances during the three English-language leaders debates**



**Conservative Leader Stephen Harper talks with Rebecka Byok during a campaign stop in Saskatoon, Sask, on Wednesday.** NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Harper vows to widen niqab ban

ELECTION 2015

## NDP, Liberals condemn the plan as bid to distract voters

Stephen Harper took the politics of niqabs to a higher level Wednesday, suggesting a re-elected Conservative government would consider legislation banning the Muslim face covering for anyone dealing with — or working for — the federal government.

He opened the door earlier in the week with a CBC television interview, saying niqabs could be nixed in the public service — echoing similar comments last week in the French-language leaders' debate.

But on Wednesday, the Conservative leader went further, lauding Quebec's Bill 64, which requires those who wear face coverings to remove them if they want to work in the public sector — or do business with government officials. Although tabled in the National Assembly, the bill has yet to be debated.

He called the Quebec Liberal government's approach measured and pledged that when it came time for federal legislation, he would follow their lead.

As if to hammer home the point, the Conservatives released online attack ads in French, going after Justin Trudeau's position on the niqab.

A proposed ban on niqabs in the federal civil service would affect an infinitesimally small number of bureaucrats — if any at all. Statistics from 2011 show only 1.8 per cent of 257,000 federal employees are Muslim women and only a small subset of them is likely to wear face coverings.

> **No election win is worth pitting Canadians against Canadians.**
> Justin Trudeau

The Conservatives have already tried to require Muslim women to show their faces at citizenship ceremonies, but those rules are being challenged in the courts. Harper's comments on Wednesday make clear he is eyeing additional legislation to require women to unveil every time they want services from the federal government.

Harper insisted his government has been "saying the same thing for several months" on the issue.

Both Trudeau and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair condemned the latest proposal as an attempt to distract voters from serious questions about Conservative management of the economy.

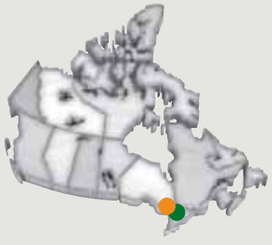
Mulcair said, in Enoch, Alta., that what Harper was doing was "bizarre" and "dangerous" and part of a broader political strategy aimed at getting the Conservatives re-elected by accentuating differences rather than bringing people together.

Trudeau, in London, Ont., said Harper's divide-and-conquer approach "is unworthy of the office he holds, and he needs to stop."

"No election win is worth pitting Canadians against Canadians."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### WHERE THE LEADERS ARE THURSDAY



- **Stephen Harper's** itinerary was not available.
- **Justin Trudeau's** itinerary was not available.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Toronto.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Guelph, Ont., and Toronto.

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NOBEL PRIZE

## DNA research honoured

Three scientists from Sweden, the U.S. and Turkey won the Nobel Prize in chemistry on Wednesday for showing how cells repair damaged DNA, work that's inspired the development of new cancer treatments.

Swedish scientist Tomas Lindahl, American Paul Modrich and U.S.-Turkish national Aziz Sancar shared the 8 million Swedish kronor (about $960,000) award for research done in the 1970s and '80s.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said their work on DNA repair had provided "fundamental knowledge" about how cells function and shed light on the mechanisms behind both cancer and aging.

The findings are significant for cancer research, because cancer cells are kept alive by DNA repair mechanisms. Researchers are now looking at ways to destroy the repair mechanisms within the cancer cells to kill them, academy member Peter Brzezinski said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Obama apologizes

AFGHANISTAN

## U.S. airstrike hits hospital, killing staff and patients

U.S. President Barack Obama apologized to Doctors Without Borders on Wednesday for the American air attack that killed at least 22 people at its hospital in Afghanistan and said the U.S. would examine military procedures to look for better ways to prevent such incidents.

Obama's telephone call to the group's international president, Joanne Liu, came a day after the White House had stopped short of an apology, waiting to learn more while acknowledging that the attack was a U.S. mistake. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama offered condolences to the staff and pledged a "transparent, thorough and objective accounting of the facts."

"When the United States makes a mistake, we own up to it, we apologize where appropriate and we are honest about what transpired," Earnest said. He described Obama's apology as "heartfelt."

Liu confirmed the apology and, in a written statement, reiterated her organization's call for the U.S. government to consent to an independent investigation "to establish what happened in Kunduz, how it happened and why it happened."

Emerging details about the erroneous strike have only fuelled growing condemnation by Doctors Without Borders and other aid groups in the four days since the clinic in the northern city of Kunduz came under heavy fire that killed a dozen staffers and 10 patients. After initial confusion, officials determined the U.S. had carried out the strike, an admission that complicates delicate U.S. efforts in Afghanistan as Obama weighs how many troops to leave there.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**U.S. President Barack Obama speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington on Wednesday.** PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PALLIATIVE CARE

## Britain tops in 'quality of death'

Britain topped an 80-country "quality of death" study released Tuesday, which warned that aging and booming populations would make palliative care a growing worldwide issue.

The 2015 Quality of Death Index, compiled by the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit, found Britain to be the best at palliative care.

"Its ranking is due to comprehensive national policies, the extensive integration of palliative care into the National Health Service, a strong hospice movement and deep community engagement on the issue," the EIU said.

Britain was followed by Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Belgium and Taiwan. Canada came in at 11th place.

Palliative care provision was found to be worst in Iraq among the 80 countries studied, with Bangladesh, the Philippines, Nigeria and Myanmar rounding out the bottom five.

AFP

ISRAEL

## Civilians stabbed

Palestinian assailants carried out a series of stabbings across Israel on Wednesday, jolting an anxious country unnerved by weeks of unrest as clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian demonstrators raged across the West Bank.

The unrest began three weeks ago and has spread from the confines of a sensitive Jerusalem holy site to spots across Israel and the West Bank. In Wednesday's violence, stabbings occurred outside a crowded mall in central Israel, in a southern Israeli town and in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Israeli forces shot two of the attackers, killing one, while a third was arrested. No Israelis were seriously hurt. Another Palestinian was wounded when he was shot by police after he attempted to run over an officer at a West Bank checkpoint, police said.

In all, four Israelis have been killed in stabbings and a roadside shooting in recent days, while five Palestinians, including three attackers, have been killed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### IN BRIEF

**Five arrested over elephant poisoning**

A Zimbabwean wildlife official says five people are in police custody and being questioned over the killing of 11 elephants poisoned by cyanide at Hwange National Park in the west of the country.

In addition to the elephants killed at Hwange park, three others were poisoned by cyanide near Kariba in northern Zimbabwe in the past two weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Holocaust photo archive going online and free**

The International Tracing Service says it has begun putting its Holocaust-era archive online for the first time, including photos of items seized from concentration-camp victims and other historical documents.

The archive said Wednesday the materials are now available at no charge on its site. The 50,000 images posted so far represent only a small part of its collection of some 30 million documents. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA

## Cruise missiles fly in Russian offensive

Russian warships in the Caspian Sea fired cruise missiles Wednesday as Syrian government troops launched a ground offensive in central Syria in the first major combined air-and-ground assault since Moscow began its military campaign in the country last week.

The missiles flew nearly 1,500 kilometres over Iran and Iraq and struck Raqqa and Aleppo provinces in the north and Idlib province in the northwest, Russian officials said. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant group has strongholds in Raqqa and Aleppo, while the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front has a strong presence in Idlib.

Activists and rebels say the targets have included Western-backed fighters and other groups opposed to President Bashar Assad.

The developments come a week after Russia began airstrikes in Syria, its longtime ally, on Sept. 30.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIGRANT CRISIS

# EU to send home unsuccessful refugee applicants

European Union countries are closing in on an agreement Thursday to crack down on migrants who have been refused entry into the bloc so they can be swiftly sent home.

A key issue will be to ensure there are tougher measures to put those who have to leave in pre-departure detention to make sure they don't disappear to live illegally in EU nations.

More than 500,000 people have arrived this year seeking sanctuary or jobs, sparking the EU's biggest refugee emergency in decades.

But of people who fail to obtain asylum or residency in the 28-nation EU, less than 40 per cent actually go back. It is seen as a major flaw in the EU's common migration policy.

At Thursday's meeting in Luxembourg, EU interior ministers will agree "all measures must be taken to ensure irregular migrants' effective return," according to a draft statement.

Those measures include the "use of detention as a legitimate measure of last resort."

With thousands of people arriving daily, border and reception facilities have been stretched to the breaking point. Ensuring returns is seen as one way to ease the pressure.

According to the draft statement, EU countries plan to spend roughly $1.2 billion up until 2020 on returning people who enter Europe illegally.

Better use will be made of Europe's visa and fingerprint databases, and countries will ensure that all decisions to send people home are entered into the Schengen passport-free area's computer system.

Countries will agree to "reinforce their pre-removal detention capacity to ensure the physical availability of irregular migrants for return" — long-hand for building more detention centres to lock people up in so they can be sent home more easily.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Migrants are permitted to register with the police at a refugee centre in the southern Serbian town of Presevo on Wednesday.** DARKO VOJINOVIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW BRUNSWICK

# Analyst tracking hackers

As use of the Internet has exploded, so has the number of malware attacks around the world — and now a researcher at the University of New Brunswick is trying to unlock the digital fingerprints of hackers who are after your money and personal information.

Natalia Stakhanova has begun a five-year research project aimed at trying to determine the digital profile of people developing certain types of malicious software, or malware.

She is focusing on the binary side of existing malware to look for clues about the source of an infection and the kinds of tools used to develop it. Her team will also try to determine whether the malware was targeting a specific person or if it is more random.

"We hope to at some time be able to identify where it comes from. So we'll know who wrote it, why he wrote it, how it was written and where that person lives," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# 'Blue Jay flu' won't fly

EMPLOYMENT

## Bosses also likely won't accept baseball as a religion

Though you may be tempted to book off work Thursday or Friday with "Blue Jay flu," you're better off just catching updates at your desk, advises David Doorey, professor of labour and employment law at York University. Torstar News Service asked him what bosses will think of this sudden illness.

**Fans are hyped up to watch the Blue Jays take on the Texas Rangers on Thursday and Friday in the Toronto team's first playoff games in 22 years.** THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

**Can employees get away with calling in sick?**

A different sort of bird flu is going around, but don't expect bosses to be sympathetic. Any employee who lies about being sick to sneak off to the sports bar is putting their job at risk.

**What are the repercussions if you're caught?**

Dishonesty and unauthorized absenteeism are both violations of an employment contract that an employer could respond to by discipline or even termination. Non-union employees have less protection because their employers can always fire them for absenteeism, unless the absence is due to a disability or religion. Baseball may be a religion to some, but the law doesn't see it that way. If a group of unionized employees scheme to all call in sick and watch the game together, that would be an illegal strike that could result in discipline, termination and even an order to pay the employer damages for lost productivity.

**From the boss' perspective, is this heavily frowned upon?**

Taking the odd day off is one thing. Lying to the employer about the reason for the absence is quite another. Dishonesty is treated as a serious breach of the employment contract, and most employers have little tolerance for it.

**What about just watching the game at work: Is this acceptable in the workplace?**

Depending on the work environment, allowing your employees to watch the game at work could be a great morale-building human-resources strategy.

This obviously wouldn't work for all workplaces, since it will mean a very unproductive four hours.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## IN BRIEF

**Half of microbusinesses needed $100K or less: Poll**

Half of businesses with fewer than 10 employees were able to launch with $100,000 or less, and one in 10 needed only $2,500 or less, a Bank of Montreal poll says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Real-estate investors shifting focus: Report**

A PwC Canada and Urban Land Institute report on real-estate trends says foreign investors may start looking beyond Toronto and Vancouver and begin targeting markets in Montreal and Saskatoon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## market minute

**DOLLAR** 76.54¢ (-0.22¢)

**TSX** 13,868.35 (+221.09)

**OIL** $47.81 US (-72¢)

**GOLD** $1,148.70 US (+$2.30)

**NATURAL GAS:** $2.474 US (+0.4¢)
**DOW JONES:** 16,912.29 (+122.10)

metro VIEWS

Researchers find missing lines of the 3,000-year-old Epic of Gilgamesh on a tablet bought from a smuggler — under a 'no questions asked' rule some archeologists worry encourages black-market trade.

## CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE NIQAB DEBATE

**With a deal to create a free-trade zone across the Pacific Rim, the assumption was that the Conservatives would want to shift the conversation away from identity politics.**

Against the expectations of many — including some of his own strategists — Stephen Harper has thrown the niqab issue back into the mix of the last stretch of the federal campaign.

With a deal to create a free trade zone across the Pacific Rim in hand the assumption was that the Conservatives would want to shift the conversation away from identity politics and back to the more central theme of the economy.

Instead, in a CBC interview on Tuesday, Harper breathed new life into the niqab discussion, suggesting a re-elected Conservative government might follow Quebec's example and ban the face-covering veil across the federal workplace.

That comment predictably stole the show from the just-negotiated Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Harper had raised the possibility of imposing a niqab ban on federal civil servants and those that they provide services to on a stop in Quebec last week and — in passing — on the set of the last French-language leaders debate on Friday.

But Tuesday's CBC interview marked the first time he was as explicit on English-language national television on both the pursuit by the Conservatives of a niqab ban for the purpose of taking the oath of citizenship and the notion that the prohibition might be expanded.

It could be argued that Harper was just answering questions. But he is a seasoned politician.

He could have limited his remarks to the ongoing government efforts to have Muslim women unveil their faces to take the oath, the better to focus on his trade deal.

He had to have known that his niqab answer would stir the pot.

On Wednesday in Saskatoon, Harper pushed the envelope a bit further, calling the Quebec plan for a comprehensive niqab ban a "responsible" one.

By all indications, the Conservatives believe there is still political capital to be gained from a culture war over the niqab.

But as they expand the front of that war from Quebec to the rest of Canada, they are also shifting targets.

Their latest French-language ads take Justin Trudeau to task for opposing a niqab ban.

In contrast with NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair, who has taken a hit over his opposition to a veil ban in Quebec, Trudeau, who shares the same position, has so far emerged unscathed.

He picked up a major editorial endorsement from La Presse this week. It is the first time since 2000 that the Montreal daily explicitly endorsed the Liberals in a federal election.

Some polls have Trudeau in the lead in Ontario. Most have the Conservatives and the Liberals neck-and-neck nationally.

Going in the last two weeks of the campaign, Harper strategists may have hoped that the Liberal leader would join Mulcair on the TPP barricades.

Harper could then have spent the last stretch defending the projected benefits of his trade agreement against all comers. He could have counted on a chorus of pro-TPP constituencies to echo his message. Except that the Liberal leader has declined to come out against the trade deal.

Raising the niqab stakes in an effort to drag Trudeau down is not a risk-free strategy. The widespread support for the removal of face-covering veils for the taking of the citizenship oath is steeped in symbolism. Banning women who wear the niqab from working in the federal civil service and from receiving government services unless they unveil could be widely seen as a different proposition.

In the immediate aftermath of Harper's CBC interview, some observers mistakenly suggested the Conservative leader was stealing a page from the Parti Québécois' secularism charter. In fact, it is Liberal Premier Philippe Couillard's example that Harper might follow.

The Parti Québécois would have imposed a secular dress code on anyone working in Quebec's public sector. Its proposed ban would have applied — among other religious garments — to the Jewish kippa, the Muslim hijab, and the Sikh turban. Like Harper, the Quebec Liberals are focusing on face-covering veils in their bill.

But if the Conservative leader's statements had some otherwise well-informed pundits initially confused, more than a few voters — particularly in the cultural communities that will determine the outcome of the crucial suburban vote later on Oct. 19 — could understandably feel less than clear about the extent of Harper's actual intentions.

**Chantal Hébert** is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

### THE MICROTREND: Hallomeme costumes

Everyone has at least one Newsfeed Nancy in their life — a friend who is instantly on top of every viral sensation, whether it be a New York City rat toting a piece of pizza home on the subway, the dear departed Cecil the Lion, or The Dress of indeterminate colour. Now all those phenomena and more are available for the perpetually on-trend as commercially made Halloween costumes. If you're a bit more ambitious and willing to go homemade, the possibilities are endless — there's still plenty of time to pull together a disguise as a Labrador riding a bus, an excited weatherman or a pumpkin-spice latte before Oct. 31.

SOURCE: HOUSTON CHRONICLE

## metroview

# Old age: It's going to happen to you. And most of us aren't ready

**Diane Baker Mason**
For Metro

You think it won't happen to you. You won't end up warehoused in some underfunded institution. You'll live at home, maybe hire a helper. If you must, you'll move to a nice facility with superlative care. As for the cost, the government covers that, right?

Wrong. Most Canadians are under the illusion their long-term care is covered by government plans. But anyone who needs long-term care soon finds themselves in a financial and bureaucratic quagmire — a patchwork of services and facilities, with limited (if any) government support. There are waiting lists, inconsistent qualification procedures and significant expense for both institutional and in-home care. It is easy to fall through the gaps.

Rarely are private savings and insurance adequate to pay for our care. Usually the cost far exceeds the average person's savings. As for insurance, fewer than one per cent of Canadians purchase coverage for long-term care, possibly thinking it's not something they have to pay for.

**Anyone who needs long-term care soon finds themselves in a financial and bureaucratic quagmire.**

But we do pay, mostly from our own private funds. If that's inadequate, we are often thrown into a semi-subsidized system with many gaps in it.

While it should be a national priority that quality long-term care be available to every Canadian, Canada's plans for establishing and funding universal long-term care are virtually nonexistent. The federal parties speak mostly about the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security. Only the NDP promises a revised health accord that might address some long-term care issues.

But even a revised accord would not solve the funding problem. The answer lies in a public insurance plan. Such a plan would cover assistance with daily living as well as out-of-hospital professional services beyond those covered by the Canada Health Act. Studies by public-policy groups have explored options for such plans. But we continue to turn a blind eye to the problem of funding our increasing need for long-term care.

This isn't something remote from us — something that a separate group of "old people" are facing. We are the "old people." If it's not our personal problem right now, it will be soon enough. So let's all start looking at this now. To paraphrase that wise old man, Mick Jagger, time is not on our side.

**Diane Baker Mason** is a Toronto-based novelist, writer and retired lawyer.

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Pharrell Williams to perform at MTV European Music Awards later this month

# Meyer wouldn't change a thing

## BOOKS

**Characters switch roles in new Twilight novel**

Call them Edythe and Beau.

For the 10th anniversary of her Twilight series, Stephenie Meyer is offering a gender swap for those millions caught up in the saga of Bella and Edward.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers on Tuesday released a Twilight/Life and Death dual edition of Meyer's first of four main novels in the bestselling vampire series. The original book has been paired with Life and Death, a narrative that reverses the author's famed romance between a teen girl and male vampire, instead having a human boy (Beau) fall for a female vampire (Edythe).

According to Little, Brown, the alternate version contains nearly 400 pages of new material. As of late Tuesday morning, the book was in the top 500 on Amazon.com's bestseller list.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Stephenie Meyer.**
GETTY IMAGES

TWILIGHT

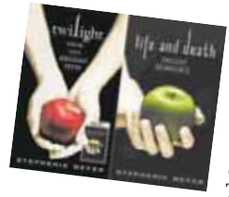
## ... Except for one significant detail about the popular vampire series

It's been a decade since Stephanie Meyer — a then unknown author — introduced her death-crossed lovers Bella and Edward to readers in the first book of the Twilight series.

But, four books, five movies and 10 years later, has the romantic story of a young woman falling in love with a vampire lost it's sparkle in a world where Miley Cyrus twerks on MTV and feminist young women want to be the heroes of their own stories?

This old-fashioned girl-meets-boy story has spawned fan fiction, including E.L. James' Fifty Shades of Grey (just don't ask Meyer to comment on it — she wouldn't address it with us), and criticism about Bella's passive personality in the series.

Metro recently had an exclusive opportunity to email Meyer a few questions about how this series has held up in a changing world, and how readers were affected by her works.




**Fans of the series will be very interested in the bonus content included in the 10th anniversary edition. What can you tell us about it? Is there anything you think will come as a revelation to readers?**

The bonus content is Twilight rewritten with all but a few of the characters' genders switched. It is very close to the original version, because not much changes when the human is a boy and the vampire is a girl (which was kind of my point in doing this exercise). If readers have the same response that I did, they might be surprised at how cool Edward is as Edythe.

**It was a decade ago that the series started, and a large number of women grew up reading the books and watching the movies. This was a love story, but it wasn't explicit or smutty. It was romantic more than anything. Have readers have told you how it affected them and their ideas about love?**

Readers really haven't discussed with me how Twilight affected their ideas of love, probably because we're all aware that this is just fantasy. I can say, however, from the interactions I've had with readers at signings, there seem to be a couple of common ways that Twilight has impacted people. For many, Twilight was an awakening or reawakening to the enjoyment of reading for pleasure; many readers went on to become much more active readers across many genres. Also, many readers have expressed to me that they've made lifelong friends through discussing Twilight online with other readers. Another frequent comment is that Twilight prompted the reader to start writing her own story. All of these responses make me really happy.

**In recent years we have seen a rise in feminism among young women. Do you think the Twilight series — and Bella and the choices she makes — would still resonate with readers 10 years later?**

People still seem to really enjoy the experience of falling in love, so I would say yes. Love stories will always have a place for some readers.

**If you did write it today, what choices would you make differently about the plot, the characters?**

Having just rewritten the story for the 10th anniversary edition, I can safely say that I know I wouldn't change much. I would (and did) change some clunky words, and add in some fun things that I thought of later. Twilight was a fun writing experience. I think my approach has always been and probably will always be to have fun and entertain myself. METRO CANADA

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# Things that go bump in the night

NINO RICCI

## Author's latest a disturbing look at realm of sleeplessness

For Nino Ricci, imagining the last words of a novel usually inspires the story he wants to tell. His new book Sleep was no exception.

"What came to me first was the book's ending — and the book's last line really — and I thought, 'Yeah, that seems to have resonance. Now I just have to figure out how my character ends up there,"' says Ricci, who won Governor General's Awards for Fiction for his novels Lives of the Saints and The Origin of the Species.

"Most of my books actually work that way — that I get a final image of some sort and I can feel the feeling in that situation and then I try and unspool the story from that."

Sleep, a disturbing look at a history professor's descent into the realm of sleeplessness, starts with a near-tragedy, keeps the reader on edge throughout, and ends explosively.

David Pace has a successful career with a beautiful wife, who's also an academic. They have a young son and a gorgeous home.

But David begins to have trouble sleeping, then falls asleep at inopportune moments. After he's diagnosed with a sleep disorder, he increasingly relies on pharmaceuticals and engages in deviant sexual behaviour.

Ricci suffers from sleep problems, but any other similarities with the protagonist end there, says Ricci during an interview at the office of publisher Doubleday.

"He's a more extreme character than I am and also has more extreme interpretations than I do. We have to take his depictions with a bit of a grain of salt, but it's all drawn from things I've actually been through myself and experienced firsthand," Ricci says.

David grows increasingly jealous of his wife's academic success and his twin brother's amassing wealth. He alienates colleagues, has financial problems and becomes obsessed with guns.

Ricci, who has been awarded the Order of Canada, lives in Toronto with his wife and 14-year-old son. He loves watching films in his spare time.

"In another life I would have liked to be a film director, but I would never have the authority to command a film set. That's just not my personality," he says.

"But there's a part of me that always wanted to go in that direction because film is so much the medium of our time."

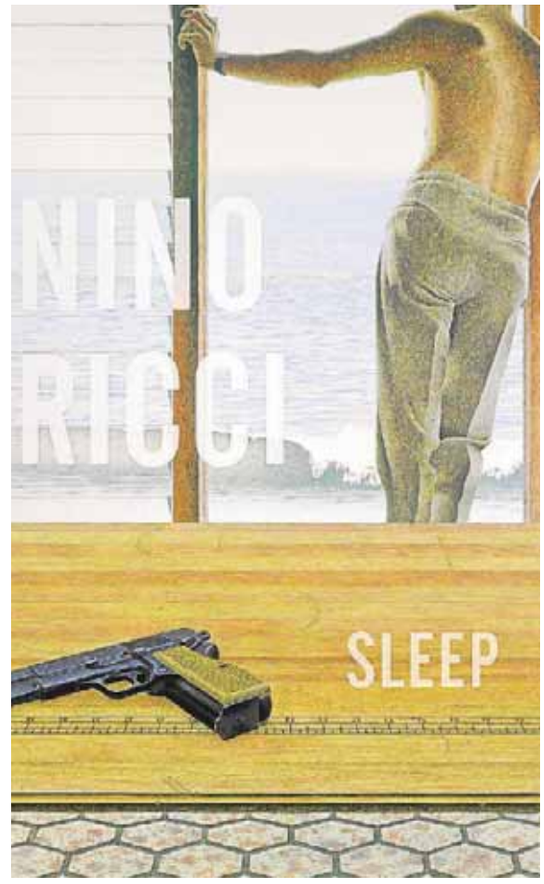
Ricci dedicated Sleep to Canadian novelist, filmmaker and musician Paul Quarrington, his close friend who died of lung cancer in 2010 at age 56.

Quarrington and his wife introduced Ricci to his wife. They had children around the same age, and the two families took holidays together.

"He knew everyone — he knew everyone in the writing world, he knew people in the music world and the film world, so all I had to do was hang out with Paul and my social life was taken care of. Just go wherever Paul went. And I knew whenever I went anywhere Paul was there, that I was kind of safe, like he was like my godfather.

"My life feels very diminished since he died," he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS




### WRITING WHAT YOU KNOW

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE ILLUSTRATION

If Ricci's descriptions of sleep clinics seem realistic, it's because the author suffers from a sleep disorder diagnosed about 10 years ago.

But any other similarities with the protagonist end there, says Ricci during an interview at the office of publisher Doubleday.

The 56-year-old author, who has taught Canadian studies at Princeton University, says he can now "function quite normally" with narcolepsy.

"I was very worried at the outset about pumping my body full of all these chemicals, but I don't think it's affected my creative process. I went through trying different medications and there was one I tried where I couldn't write," he says.

"I would sit down and I would write a sentence and it wouldn't seem right. I'd write it a different way and by the end I'd have 12 versions of it and I couldn't decide which was the right one.

"It was very paralyzing, as if I'd lost the big picture or a sense of esthetic judgement."

SHAKESPEARE

## Authors reimagine the Bard

This week sees the publication of the first instalment in a multi-year project to mark the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, with authors including Jeanette Winterson, Gillian Flynn, Howard Jacobson and Margaret Atwood putting a contemporary spin on the Bard's classics.

Winterson's reimagining of The Winter's Tale, called The Gap of Time, came out Tuesday and sets the publishing project in motion, with an approach of staying true to the original play while bringing something new to it.

In the original Winter's Tale, one of Shakespeare's late plays, a king's jealousy results in his baby daughter being banished and in the death of his wife.

His daughter is raised on the Bohemian coast, but a series of events reunite the father and daughter, and ultimately, her mother.

Winterson's version sets the story's action in London, in 2008, when the city is reeling from the financial crisis; standing in for the Bohemian coast is New Bohemia, a fictional storm-ravaged American city with similarities to New Orleans.

Reviews so far have been largely positive.

The Guardian notes "how readily the plot translates to a modern context" and says that Winterson has captured the essence of the original "with evident respect and affection for Shakespeare's text, and made it new with her own bold and poetic prose and her insights into love and grief."

In 2016, the 400th anniversary year, look for Jacobson's The Merchant of Venice in February, Anne Tyler's The Taming of the Shrew in June and Atwood's The Tempest in October.

Those will be followed later on by Tracy Chevalier's Othello, Gillian Flynn's Hamlet, Jo Nesbo's Macbeth and Edward St Aubyn's King Lear.

AFP

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BIRTHS

# Baby for Carey Mulligan

Carey Mulligan popped back into the public eye this week at the London Film Festival debut of her new film, Suffragette, and she brought along with her some joyous news.

"Carey has given birth to a healthy and happy baby," a source tells E! News.

"She is just enjoying this time with her family and close friends."

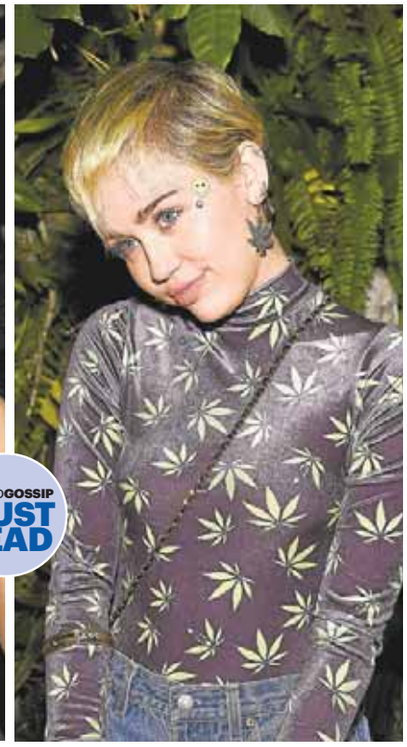
Well, and standing awkwardly with Meryl Streep on a red carpet, but still.

Mulligan and husband Marcus Mumford — of Mumford and Sons fame — married in 2012 and first confirmed they were expecting back in June when her appearance at the Tonys made it impossible to hide the news.

She had to sit out the world premiere of Suffragette at the Telluride Film Festival in late September because she was about to give birth, if you want to try to pinpoint the exact date of delivery. Which is weird, why would you do that? Anyway, no word yet on the gender, mostly because they don't want us to go with the obvious headlines. Well, we certainly showed them, didn't we?

NED EHRBAR/METRO

Carey Mulligan



metroGOSSIP MUST READ

Nicki Minaj and Miley Cyrus aren't making peace any time soon. ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

# Minaj fires up feud with Miley Cyrus

INTERVIEWS

## Quotes in NYT Mag show fight far from over

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

So that feud between Nicki "Miley, what's good?" Minaj and Miley Cyrus?

Yeah, totally not going away anytime soon. After Cyrus made some comments about Minaj to the New York Times that Minaj reacted to at the VMAs, things seemed to calm down.

But Minaj just did an interview with the New York Times Magazine that proves she's far from over it.

"The fact that you feel upset about me speaking on something that affects black women makes me feel like you have some big balls," Minaj says.

"You're in videos with black men, and you're bringing out black women on your stages, but you don't want to know how black women feel about something that's so important?

"Come on, you can't want the good without the bad.

"If you want to enjoy our culture and our lifestyle, bond with us, dance with us, have fun with us, twerk with us, rap with us, then you should also want to know what affects us, what is bothering us, what we feel is unfair to us.

"You shouldn't not want to know that."

BODY IMAGE

# Fat shaming sent Selena to therapy

Good job, everybody. Any taunting or comments made about Selena Gomez's figure after she posted a photo of herself in a bikini back in May ended up sending her off looking for professional help. Hope you're proud of yourselves, jerks.

"I've been working in therapy," she tells Us Weekly. "I'd land at the airport and people would yell out, 'You're fat!' It was awful. I've been working since I was seven. This is the first year I ever dealt with anyone talking about my body. Even if I did gain weight, I'm fine. That's what the picture represents."

Also, having seen the picture in question, I have no idea what you people are talking about. That's what we're calling fat now? There's no hope for anyone.

NED EHRBAR/METRO

Selena Gomez

## GOSSIP BRIEFS

### Miranda Lambert has 'never felt more inspired'

Sometimes an artist just needs to shake things up, make a change, ditch the routines if she wants to really get those juices flowing and get productive. And sometimes she just needs to end her marriage. Miranda Lambert insists that since splitting up with Blake Shelton and moving back to Nashville, she's been more productive than ever, writing music every day. "I've never felt more inspired," she said at her Music City Walk of Fame induction ceremony this week. "I've written music basically every single day for the whole summer, and it was my first summer off the road and I've never felt more ready to make music." I wonder what she's been writing about.

NED EHRBAR/METRO

### Tom Hanks reunites student with university ID card

Tom Hank's tweet worked! A student named Lauren who lost her Fordham University ID card has been found.

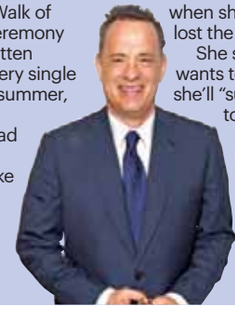
The Oscar-winning actor tweeted a photo of the card Tuesday after finding it in a park. He covered up the woman's last name with his finger in the photo.

WCBS-TV says it located Fordham senior Lauren Whitmore on Tuesday. Whitmore says she was jogging in Central Park on Monday when she must have lost the card.

She says if Hanks wants to return it, she'll "surely meet him to do that."

Hanks stars in the upcoming Cold War thriller Bridge of Spies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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metro HOME
Your essential daily news
TheRedPin.ca poll of Canadian couples shows 97% of women ultimately get the home they want

# What they're a$king

Here's a variety of two-bedroom resale condos in both midrise and highrise buildings. Living in condominiums is convenient, great for busy people, and means never having to shovel the drive or cut the lawn. **Duncan McAllister** FOR METRO

ASKING PRICES WERE ACCURATE AT TIME OF PUBLISHING.

**$399,900**

## Ottawa

This two-bedroom, two-bathroom 951-sq.-ft. suite is located at 131 Holland Ave., on the quiet and bright east side of this nearly-new building by Domicile. The suite features tasteful, modern finishes and the building has a well-equipped gym as well as a guest suite. Underground heated parking and a storage locker is included. The condo is located on the border of Wellington West and Hintonburg. Listing agents are Kelly Ebbs and Kerry Millican with Royal LePage Team Realty, 613-290-2990.

**$260,900**

## Calgary

This second-floor unit offers a southern exposure and a bright, open concept. The unit features a kitchen with a raised eating bar and dining area. There's a large living room with patio doors to the balcony, laundry and a four-piece bathroom. The master bedroom offers a full ensuite bathroom. The condo is close to transit, shopping, green spaces and plenty of amenities. Tim Lind is a sales representative for RE/Max Real Estate Mountain View, 403-333-0837.

**$1,060,000**

## Vancouver

This spacious suite boasts amazing views of False Creek, English Bay and the city from the south-west-facing corner unit. It features luxury finishes like granite countertops and cherry flooring. Upgrades include a new appliance package, light fixtures and faucets. The condo offers access to the Super Club's pool, sauna, fitness room, theatres, squash court, guest suites and 24-hour concierge. Just steps to the urban lifestyle of downtown, parks and seawall. Listing agent is Pam Allen with RE/Max Real Estate Services, 604-790-8464.

# Their love for grey will not fade away

INTERIOR DESIGN

## Designers tout the shade as a go-to neutral in any space

The buzz over 50 Shades of Grey may have faded, but interior design experts say their love affair with the colour grey is definitely not a passing trend.

Looking back 10 years, designer Mollie Ranize remembers grey being "perceived as a depressing colour palette that was difficult to use, and no one really wanted to live in it." Since then, grey has developed into the go-to neutral colour and a favourite solution to many design dilemmas.

Want to use a bold colour but worry that it will overpower a room or look tacky? Mix some cool grey into even the loudest paint colour and it will instantly look more subtle and sophisticated.

And you can find a shade of grey that pairs well with everything. It's kind of shocking that almost everything on the colour wheel is complementary with it," says Ranize, founder of DMar Interiors in Los Angeles. "That's not something you can say about the whole tan-and-beige wave that we had for a really long time."

Gray works with every decorating style, from totally traditional to cutting-edge modern. Whatever the style, "grey can be a huge statement," Ranize says, so it "doesn't take a huge quantity of accents to get high impact."

It also works surprisingly well in rooms where you might not expect it: Betsy Burnham, founder of Burnham Design in Los Angeles, uses dark grey kitchen cabinetry painted with a slightly shimmery satin finish. She likes using a softer shade, Benjamin Moore's Gray Owl, on walls, and painting the trim a crisp, cool white.

Designer Brian Patrick Flynn, founder of Flynnside Out Productions, uses grey "to mediate other more dramatic colours."

"If I am using a lot of black," he says, "I'll pair it with greige to keep the look more subtle and almost lower the amount of contrast. If I'm working with bold colours such as red or orange, I'll usually set them against a backdrop of dove grey or blue grey."

Another combo he recommends: charcoal grey with dark hunter green and black. "All three are super-dark and rich," Flynn says, but "none are really too high-energy, resulting in a sense of glamour that's somewhat rustic and woodsy. It's a really unique look that can be pulled off in the right setting."

Grey is even kid-friendly. It's "an excellent choice for a gender-neutral nursery or kid's room," Flynn says, "since you can accent it with a wide array of colours."

> **Grey can be a huge statement.**
> Mollie Ranzie, founder of DMar Interiors

Yet another gorgeous option: Ranize loves mixing greys with deep shades of plum and any deep blue, from navy to teal. Deep blues "can play off of light greys so pleasantly," she says. It brings "emotional impact without being over the top."

Grey doesn't have to make a room feel depressing or cold. "There are ways to bring it outside of that stark, off-putting, cloudy-day kind of vibe," says Burnham.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Here designer Brian Patrick Flynn used several shades of vivid blues to add coolness to the otherwise warm tones.** SARAH DORIO/BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN VIA AP

**This airy, vintage-style bedroom by Flynn demonstrates the designer's use of blue-gray tones to keep rooms feeling classic and gender-neutral.** HGTV.COM/BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN VIA AP

**In this Burnham Design photo, a cream window shade, green plant and dark wooden chair bring an organic warmth to an otherwise cool kitchen.** CHRISTOPHER PATEY/BURNHAM DESIGN VIA AP

### GREY AREA

**The best base layer**

Rather than adding grey to a room as an accent colour, Ranize suggests using it as the room's base colour. She recommends using paint or wallpaper to create soft grey walls, then layering more shades of grey into the room in the floor-covering and furniture. As a finishing touch, add a few pops of other colours. With this technique, she says, "you get this dynamic space without trying to be flamboyant." If you're building a new home, talk with your builder about using grey as the base colour throughout the property. "Builders and real estate agents are big on using beiges, creams and taupes to neutralize their properties," Flynn says, but "interior designers take the more personable route with grey, a colour which has more personality." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Stay on budget for your reno

HOME

## How to get the best quote, and other important tips

**Liz Brown**

**The lowest price isn't always the best choice. Sometimes it's better to pay a little more for quality and experience.** SHUTTERSTOCK

Home renovations are pricey propositions. And if you don't set a precise budget and vision, the project can quickly balloon in cost and scope. Planning, research and clear communication with your contractor are keys to keeping your home reno running on schedule and budget.

The first step to an on-budget reno is to come up with a clear work description and give the same description to each contractor, according to Rick Hagel, general manager at Sierra Property Services Ltd. in Vancouver. "You want contractors to be comparing apples to apples," he says.

"Say you want to do a kitchen. You need to look at all of the things in your kitchen and outline what you want and what kind of quality those things should be. You need a specific list and the contractor should quote on that specific list first, and then offer any suggestions after. Don't let yourself be swayed before the initial quote is offered."

Homeowners should seek three to five quotes to get a good idea of what a project should cost. And Trevor Jones of Caniwi Construction in B.C. advises to not just select the cheapest quote. "The lowest price isn't always the best choice. It is often better to pay a little more for quality and experience," he says.

A good sign you have drawn up a specific work plan that contractors understand is if all contractors submit bids in the same general price. "(From this) you can assume you are getting a fair price for the work you described to them and they all understood the same scope of work for your project," says Gary Sharp, director of renovator services at the Canadian Home Builders' Association's national office in Ottawa.

Homeowners also need to factor in unexpected costs to their budget. "Home renovations always cost more than you think they will," says Tyler Moffet, a carpenter and contractor in Calgary. "Once you start tearing things apart, there's always something you come across that needs more work."

Moffet says a general rule of thumb in the industry is to budget 15 to 20 per cent more than the contractor's quote. "This way, if you run into a problem, it's not an issue to come up with the funds, and if all goes well, you have some gravy money at the end."

# Choosing a contractor

Choosing the right contractor is the most important decision you will make during a home renovation, but it can be hard to know where to start looking for the right professional for your needs.

"Checking references is by far the best advice," says Gary Sharp, director of renovator services at the Canadian Home Builders' Association's national office in Ottawa.

Sharp recommends preparing a list of questions before calling a reference, focusing on the contract, if the contractor stayed on budget and what the renovation team was like. "Did they smoke in the house, were they professional?" he says.

Rick Hagel, general manager of Sierra Property Services Ltd. in Vancouver, says that homeowners should check with associations like the Better Business Bureau, to see if the contractor is a member and if there have been any complaints.

"You can see what kind of a work record a contractor has," says Hagel, noting it's not just about the quality of work, but also how the contractor reacts to adversity. "If there has been a problem, you want to know the contractor attended to it immediately."

**Checking references is an important part of finding the right contractor. This isn't a time to cut corners.** SHUTTERSTOCK

Tyler Moffet, a Calgary-based carpenter and contractor says a good place to start your search is your own neighbourhood.

"Drive around your area and look for crews working on homes. Ask the homeowner to see the work and what they think of it and if the job is running on schedule," he says, adding: "It's like a job interview, you need references. You don't just ask someone you don't know to come into your house."

After you've checked references, it's time to ask for bids from the contractors. Collecting bids from three to five contractors is a good way to determine what a fair price for your project is. "If the bids are significantly different from each other, there may be a valid explanation, such as one contractor forgot to include a major component in their bid," says Sharp.

A good proposal will include a schedule of draws (payments) that are linked to milestones on the project. Hagel says most experienced contractors with good capital resources won't ask for a deposit up front, before any work is performed.

"We make sure all of our customers know that no money changes hands until there is some value for the work that has been performed. That's a key thing for determining if you want to work with a contractor, because someone who needs money right away could be a problem down the road."

LIZ BROWN

UP TO THE TASK?

# To DIY or not to DIY

If you're a homeowner who's handy, or likes to save money, it can be tempting to take on a home renovation project yourself. And while there's a certain pride in knowing you created your own deck or tiled your own bathroom, you need to be certain you're up to the task before you start tearing things apart.

"Consider your own skills and abilities carefully when planning a project," says David Foster, senior director of communications at the Canadian Home Builders Association in Ottawa. "While many of today's home improvement products are designed to make it easy for do-it-yourselfers, other projects will require specific skills. Seeing how something was done on a TV renovation show isn't the same as having practical experience. Getting in over your head can end up costing more money and causing a lot of frustration, than hiring a professional to help in the first place," he adds.

For guidance or to get an idea for your aptitude for a project, consider taking a course. Many home improvement stores offer introductory classes on basic home reno tasks and colleges offer more in-depth courses. If you do decide to go ahead with a project yourself, be sure to check with your municipal building inspector if a permit is needed for the work being planned.

"In general, a permit is required if you are making your house larger. A permit is required if you are modifying a structural wall or other structural component of the home," says Gary Sharp, director of renovator services at the Canadian Home Builders Association.

"Don't know if a wall is structural or not? That's likely a good sign not to DIY," he jokes.

Even if you are a skill tradeperson or a seasoned do-it-yourselfer, you should consider the practicality of undertaking a home renovation on your own. "A common scenario is that getting the work done simply takes much longer than anticipated," says Foster. "Homeowners get caught in this sort of thing all the time. …The two weekends of work you planned to do the job stretch out to two months and your kitchen isn't finished and your spouse has smoke coming out his or her ears."

Foster doesn't want to discourage people from DIY projects, but advises them to think carefully if they do have the time to put in the work and then assume it will take twice as long as they expect.

LIZ BROWN

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Your essential daily news

Yasiel Puig says he's back from a hamstring injury to join the L.A. Dodgers' playoff roster

# New season begins in style for Blackhawks

**OPENERS**

**Above:** Montreal Canadiens' Brendan Gallagher and Toronto Maple Leafs' Dion Phaneuf battle during first period in Toronto on Wednesday. The game was level 1-1 in the second period after a Max Pacioretty strike and a James van Riemsdyk leveller for Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

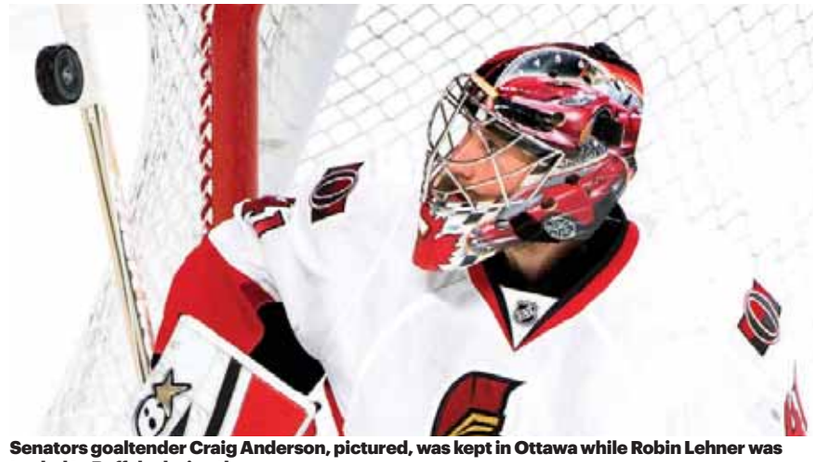
**Right:** The Chicago Blackhawks' Jonathan Toews walks the red carpet before Wednesday night's Original Six matchup against the New York Rangers. The Rangers led 1-0 after the first period. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Go to metronews.ca for results of these games**

# Lehner with point to prove vs. Senators

NHL SEASON PREVIEW

## Sabres' goalie was traded by Ottawa instead of Anderson



**Senators goaltender Craig Anderson, pictured, was kept in Ottawa while Robin Lehner was traded to Buffalo during the summer.** GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Once considered the future of the franchise, Robin Lehner will now provide the opposition as the Ottawa Senators open the regular season Thursday night against the Buffalo Sabres.

The Senators closed the book on Lehner this summer when they traded the 24-year-old goaltender to the Sabres and opted instead to keep veteran Craig Anderson and sign Andrew Hammond to a three-year contract extension.

Anderson will get the start against Lehner, while Hammond won't even back-up as he recovers from a groin strain.

"It's going to be fun, I haven't played against him ever I think so it will be interesting," said Senators captain Erik Karlsson.

"He's a good goaltender so it's going to be a challenge scoring goals on him. He's going to be very motivated to play us. I know he had a good summer but at the same time it's going to be Buffalo against Ottawa ... I don't think that's going to be in our head too much. Hopefully we can win."

Karlsson surprised everyone Wednesday showing up with a new short haircut in place of his trademark long flow. The 25-year-old said he'd been thinking about it and decided it was time, plus it was better to deal with the attention before the start of the regular season.

After finishing last season as the hottest team in the NHL, going 23-4-4 down the stretch, the Senators would love to pick up where they left off as they start the season with three games in four nights, two on the road, and all three against division rivals.

The Senators have not lost a road game in regulation since Feb. 3 (11-0-3) and while they realize they might not be able to produce at the torrid pace they did last year, the Senators believe they can be a competitive force.

> **"It's going to be fun, I haven't played against him ever I think so it will be interesting."**
> Erik Karlsson on Robin Lehner

"I like our team. I'll put our team up against anybody," said Bobby Ryan. "We've shown that we have the ability to do that at the end of the year. The core is back and we still have that feeling from last year around us so I like us." Despite few changes to the roster Senators coach Dave Cameron believes his team is stronger. "It's older, it's been through it," said Cameron. "It's more experienced. That's the biggest advantage we have."

Like Cameron, Karlsson believes last year's experience will pay dividends, but stresses the importance of keeping things in perspective. "We want to play well against Buffalo and whether we win or lose that one we've got to move forward," Karlsson said. "That's kind of the mentality we want to have this year is don't put too much pressure on any certain game. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GREATNESS ASSUMED

# McDavid 'comfortable' with pressure of emulating Gretzky

Wayne Gretzky was "The Great One" and Mario Lemieux was "The Magnificent One."

The hockey world is always looking for a new superstar to transcend the sport.

Eric Lindros, Sidney Crosby and John Tavares were dubbed "The Next One" as teenagers.

Sergei Fedorov, Peter Forsberg, Jaromir Jagr, Paul Kariya and Teemu Selanne were among the players featured with Gretzky in a mid-1990s video called "The Great One and the Next Ones."

Now, it's Connor McDavid's turn to wear the label and carry the burden that goes with all that hype.

The 18-year-old McDavid has added pressure playing in Edmonton, where Gretzky won four Stanley Cup titles.

"Pressure is something I've been dealing with for a long time," McDavid said after the Oilers picked him No. 1 overall in the NHL draft. "It's something I'm comfortable with."

> **"Pressure is something I've been dealing with for a long time. It's something I'm comfortable with."**
> Oilers' Connor McDavid

It's safe to say no one will ever come close to Gretzky's level. He dominated the NHL like no player in any other team sport.

Gretzky was a nine-time MVP who held or shared 61 career records at one point.

His 2,857 points are 970 more than the No. 2 player on the scoring list.

That's like baseball hits leader Pete Rose having 2,188 more hits than Ty Cobb instead of just 67.

For McDavid, leading the Oilers to the playoffs will be the first step. Edmonton has missed the post-season nine straight years, the league's longest drought. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Connor McDavid's NHL career kicks off in earnest on Thursday night when the Oilers visit St. Louis.** DAN RIEDLHUBER/GETTY IMAGES

# Rangers relish underdog role vs. Jays

**The acquisition of David Price has made many critics believe in the Blue Jays.** RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MLB PLAYOFFS

## After climb in standings, Texas faces tall task vs. Price

The Texas Rangers have arrived in Toronto with a chip on their shoulder.

Being overlooked by the bookmakers and others has only served to motivate the AL West champions as they prepare to meet the surging Blue Jays on Thursday in the American League Division Series.

Texas manager Jeff Bannister says there are plenty of emotions in his clubhouse.

> **It doesn't really mean anything once you step on the field.**
> Blue Jays centre-fielder Kevin Pillar on the team being favourites among critics and bookmakers

"I think it's full of energy, belief, confidence," he said Wednesday. "But yet they're the ones that aren't being given a chance. So I also think that there's a little different edge. And I thank you all."

The Rangers have already worked one miracle under their rookie manager, climbing from last place in the American League (67-95) in 2014 to make the playoffs. Only four other teams in the majors have done that before.

Toronto manager John Gibbons sees the ALDS contest as more of an "even matchup."

"Our teams are very similar," he said. "Good offences. Balanced. They've got some pretty good team speed over there."

And they both went out and made big pitching acquisitions, with Toronto trading for David Price and Texas picking up Cole Hamels. They also looked to bolster their bullpens.

"Both GMs attacked it the same way," said Gibbons. "They saw what they needed and they went out and did it."

Toronto sends out Price, its left-handed ace, against right-hander Yovani Gallardo as postseason baseball returns to the Rogers Centre for the first time since 1993.

Price is 9-1 as a Blue Jay with an earned-run average of 2.30. Over his career, he is 11-1 at the Rogers Centre.

He comes into Thursday's game on 11 days rest, with his last real outing Sept. 26 in Tampa.

And yet the former Tampa Bay and Detroit pitcher is 1-5 in the playoffs with a 4.50 ERA.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## IN BRIEF

**Durant back in game action**

It has been eight months since Kevin Durant played in an NBA game.

The Oklahoma City star who suffered through a gruelling process to mend his broken right foot said the layoff seemed "like years," but the wait is finally over.

Durant was set to make his long-awaited return to the court on Wednesday night when the Thunder opened the pre-season in Minnesota. He missed 55 games last season and needed three surgeries to repair a dreaded Jones fracture in his foot, an injury that contributed mightily to the Thunder missing the playoffs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA

## Ethics committee discusses Blatter

The FIFA ethics committee has been examining the cases of president Sepp Blatter and UEFA president Michel Platini, a move that could lead to the suspension of world soccer's most powerful officials.

Abdoulaye Makhtar Diop, a Senegalese member of the executive committee's adjudicatory chamber, said in statement Wednesday that the Blatter and Platini cases were being discussed at meetings in Zurich this week.

Ethics judge Hans-Joachim Eckert will take the final decision on the fates of Blatter and Platini, who were questioned as part of a Swiss criminal investigation last week. Blatter is a suspect, but Platini was questioned as between witness and accused person over a payment he received from FIFA in 2011.

**Sepp Blatter** GETTY IMAGES

Blatter has not yet received any news of the ethics committee's decision, said long-time aide Walter Gagg.

"I was with Mr. Blatter 10 minutes ago, and we know nothing about (a decision)," Gagg said. "He left now. He had no news."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# RECIPE Mediterranean Pasta with Basil and Artichokes

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**
For Metro Canada

This dish is simple but roasting the veg gives it real depth of flavour.

**Ready in 30 minutes**
**Serves 4**

**Ingredients**
- 2 red peppers, seeded and cut into wedges
- 1 red onion, cut into wedges
- 3 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 small ripe tomatoes, quartered
- 1 can artichoke hearts, drained, rinsed, and quartered lengthwise
- Handful of fresh basil leaves
- 3 Tbsp of grated Parmesan
- 1/2 lb dry pasta

**Directions**
**1.** Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Scatter the peppers, red onion and garlic in a large roasting tin. Toss with sugar, oil and salt and pepper.
**2.** Roast for 15 minutes, toss in the tomatoes and artichokes and roast for another 15 minutes until everything is soft and golden brown.
**3.** While the vegetables are roasting, cook the pasta in a large saucepan of salted boiling water according to package instructions. Drain well.
**4.** Remove the vegetables from the oven, tip in the pasta and toss lightly. Tear the basil leaves on top and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

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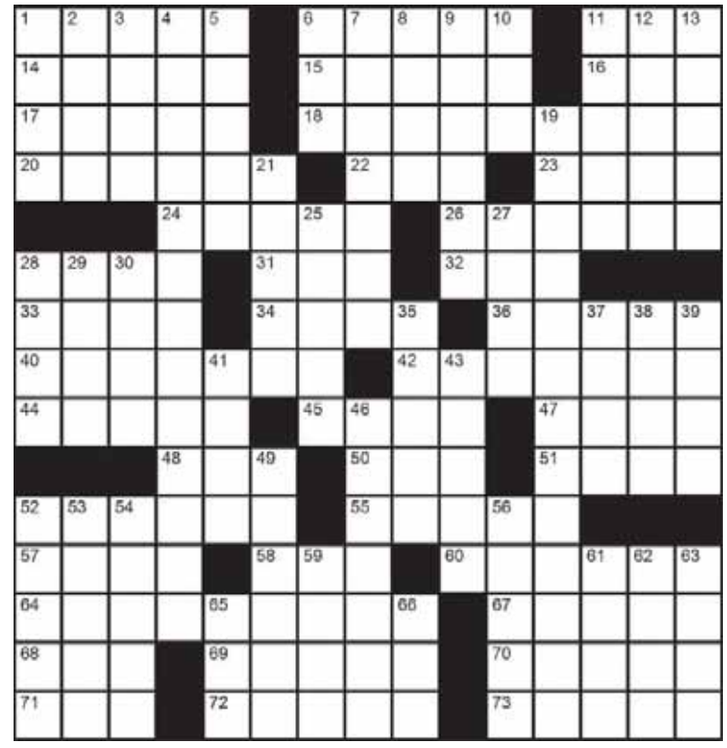
# CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



**ACROSS**
1. Colour in a bouquet
6. "Fortune is painted blind, with a muffler __ her eyes..." - Shakespeare
11. Whiz
14. __ Arden (1864 poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson)
15. Clear debt
16. Delivery vehicle
17. Intense
18. Indicator to a dinner party guest of where to be seated: 2 wds.
20. __ tires (Michelin products)
22. Le: English
23. It's buzzing with activity
24. '60s abstractionism: 2 wds.
26. Lurched
28. Red carpet design
31. __ Beta Kappa
32. Wife of Thor
33. Middle-__
34. __ up (Absorbs)
36. Streamlets
40. Took hours getting ready for the party
42. Make balanced: 2 wds.
44. Marsh grower
45. Cap-_-_ (From head to toe)
47. __ pants (Casual/fitness wear)
48. U.K. mil. service
50. Mariner's dir.
51. Foretoken
52. Self-defence developed in the Ryukyu archipelago (mainly Okinawa) of Japan meaning 'empty hand'
55. Concealed
57. Larger-than-life
58. Research paper, e.g.
60. Fruity frozen dessert
64. Pond's product: 2 wds.
67. Vacate
68. Winter water
69. Electrical pioneer Nikola
70. Facilitated
71. Hi-__ graphics
72. Tend the fire
73. Get garmented

**DOWN**
1. Big name in corporate jets
2. Empire of Peru
3. Garish, as garments
4. French for 'Happy Thanksgiving': Joyeuse _ _ _
5. "Surrender" by __ Trick
6. Alsatian artist Jean
7. Marker's writing part
8. Moonfish
9. Fast track drivers
10. 1982 Alan Parsons Project hit: "__ in the Sky"
11. Be of service
12. Prepare the Tofurky for serving
13. Wrapped up
19. Competitive series on Food Network Canada: 4 wds.
21. Memory mistake
25. Friend to Mary and Phyllis
27. W.B. Yeats' land
28. Openings
29. Troll
30. Garden intruder
35. River of Paris
37. Rug-making apparatus
38. Winter sport
39. Mr. Laurel of funny movies
41. Orderly
43. Swerves
46. Coach's rallying delivery: 2 wds.
49. Weasel relative
52. Fermented milk product
53. Speedily
54. Basmati and Wild
56. Dished out
59. Money in Mexico
61. Headquarters
62. Mark Twain story, __ Diary
63. "Bill & __ Excellent Adventure" (1989)
65. Belonging to Hartford's li'l state
66. "Maggie __" by The Beatles

# IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

**Aries** March 21 - April 20
Like everyone you can be a creature of habit but at the moment you must strive to be more original. Create your own pathway to success.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21
Don't waste your precious energy on people and situations that bring you no benefit. Your main priority now is to set yourself targets that pay off for you in the long-term, not for others in the short-term.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21
You feel out of touch with what is going on around you. Everyone else seems to be tuned in to events that mean nothing to you. Don't worry, you are not missing much. Others envy you for being so independent.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23
You will find it difficult to keep your nose out of other people's business today. You know what curiosity did to the proverbial cat, don't you?

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
Money matters will figure prominently. There is a lot at stake at the moment, so do whatever it takes to maximize your profits and minimize your losses.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You have done a lot of thinking over the past few weeks and you have come to a lot of conclusions about what you need to do to make your life more enjoyable. Now all you have to do is apply those conclusions to everyday activities.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
For some reason you are taking certain things personally when, in reality, they have nothing to do with you at all. Get over yourself and get past the notion that the powers that be are ganging up on you. They're not.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It may seem as if everyone is being critical of you but that's an exaggeration. The only people questioning you are the ones who care for you the most. Listen to what they say.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may say that you don't care what the world thinks of you but deep down you do and cosmic activity in the career area of your chart will give you the chance to impress.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something that never interested you before will grab your attention today and you will spend every spare moment trying to understand it. Others may think you have lost your mind but they don't see the possibilities you do.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will find yourself thinking deeply about the big questions of life that most people tend to ignore. Does life have meaning? If so, what is it?

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20
The only way you are going to get ahead is to co-operate — not just with friends and colleagues but with rivals too. Focus on what unites you, not on what keeps you apart.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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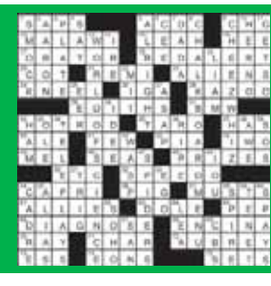

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